

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

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Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 4 NOVEMBER 2010  
title: DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT –  
HABITATS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
principal author: DAVID HEWITT – COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

## 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek the Planning and Development Committee's authorisation to use the Department of Community and Local Government Grant – Habitats and Climate Change to help deliver specific projects identified in the Forest of Bowland Climate Adaption Plan, the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan, and to manage the Council's tree stock for carbon sequestration.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – To help make people's lives safer and healthier. Protecting trees helps to safeguard the natural environment.
- Community Objectives – Safeguarding local and visual amenity value.
- Corporate Priorities – To maintain the environmental quality of Ribble Valley.
- Other Considerations – None.

## 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 As part of the area based grant the Council recently received a grant of £16,000 to reflect the new burdens on authorities planning for climate change.

2.2 The grant is a non-ringed fence grant which authorities are able to use in support of local regional and national priorities as they see fit.

## 3 ISSUES

3.1 Ribble Valley Borough Council is directly and indirectly involved in the implementation of a number of policies and projects designed to protect and enhance biodiversity as well as deal with the impacts of climate change.

3.2 In order to meet its obligations, the Council works in partnership with a number of agencies and organisations to deliver actions identified in the various policies including the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan, the Forest of Bowland Climate Change Plan and the Forest of Bowland Management Plan designed to manage the AONB districtwide natural resource for carbon sequestration.

3.3 Specific schemes include:

- Birds in Bowland – eg wader bird project, Alston Reservoir.
- New woodland – eg the planting of cloughs to reduce water run-off.
- Development of renewable energy – eg hydro feasibility study on 12 sites in the Ribble Valley.
- Habitat management take account of climate change – eg installation of fish passes in order to increase fish stocks and biodiversity.
- Management of trees for carbon sequestration – eg a study of the Council's tree stock to ascertain its carbon value.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources –
- Technical, Environmental and Legal –
- Political –
- Reputation –

#### 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Approve the use of the Department of Community and Local Government Grant – Habitats and Climate Change to help deliver specific projects included in the Bowland Climate Adaption Plan, the Lancashire Biodiversity Action Plan, the Forest of Bowland Management Plan as well as to manage the Council's tree stock for carbon sequestration.

5.2 Approve the use of delegated powers to deal with grant applications.

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

#### BACKGROUND PAPERS

1 None.

For further information please ask for David Hewitt, extension 4505.